

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 126930
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TAGS: PARM, SOPN

SUBJECT: JUNE 2 PRESS ROUNDUP

1. CHARLES MOHR IN JUNE 2 NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED THAT WHITE HOUSE SPOKESMAN JODY POWELL AT HIS DAILY NEWS BRIEFING SAID "WE DO NOT FEEL IT IS REASONABLE" TO EXPECT U.S., ON ITS OWN, TO FORGO DEPLOYMENT OF SOMETHING LIKE 12A WARHEAD WITHOUT EQUIVALENT AND "VERIFIABLE" STEPS BY SOVIET UNION. POWELL REPORTEDLY DECLINED TO CALL 12A AND ITS REFINED GUIDANCE SYSTEM "BARGAINING CHIP" IN STRATEGIC ARMS TALKS WITH SOVIETS. HE REPORTEDLY ALSO DECLINED TO SAY THAT DECISION TO DEPLOY GUIDANCE SYSTEM THIS FALL AND WARHEADS BY 1979 HAD BEEN TRIGGERED BY RUSSIAN REJECTION LAST MARCH OF PRESIDENT'S COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL FOR SUBSTANTIAL ARMS REDUCTIONS. POWELL SAID COMPREHENSIVE PROPOSAL "WOULD HAVE SPECIFICALLY PROHIBITED THIS AND MANY OTHER SORTS OF QUALITATIVE IMPROVEMENTS" IN INTERCONTINENTAL MISSILES.

UNCLASSIFIED

UNCLASSIFIED

PAGE 02 STATE 126930

2. ON SAME SUBJECT, EDWARD WALSH OF WASHINGTON POST REPORTED THAT JODY POWELL SAID U.S. HAS NOT ALTERED ITS LONG-STANDING PLAN TO DEPLOY NEW GENERATION OF SIGNIFICANTLY MORE POWERFUL AND ACCURATE NUCLEAR WARHEADS ATOP ITS FLEET OF MINUTEMAN-THREE ICBMS. WALSH CONTINUED: "POWELL, ANSWERING REPORTERS' QUESTIONS, WAS RESPONDING TO ARTICLE IN NEW YORK TIMES WHICH HE LATER SAID HAD UNFAIRLY SUGGESTED

THAT U.S. WAS UNILATERALLY ESCALATING ARMS RACE. BUT POWELL, IN PROCESS OF ATTEMPTING TO CORRECT WHAT HE SAID WAS ERRONEOUS IMPRESSION LEFT BY NEWSPAPER ARTICLE, MANAGED TO PRODUCE SOME CONFUSION ON HIS OWN. FOR EXAMPLE, HE DENIED THAT DEVELOPMENT OF NEW WARHEAD IS 'BARGAINING CHIP' IN STRATEGIC ARMS LIMITATION TALKS WITH SOVIETS, BUT SUGGESTED THAT U.S. MIGHT RECONSIDER DEPLOYMENT IF RIGHT KIND OF RESPONSE FROM SOVIETS IS FORTHCOMING. 'THERE IS POSSIBILITY THAT IF SOVIETS WANT TO NEGOTIATE SERIOUSLY WE CAN MAKE CHANGES IN OUR PLAN,' POWELL SAID. HE ALSO SAID THAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S DECISION ON DEPLOYMENT OF WARHEAD HAD BEEN 'FAIRLY RECENT.' IN FACT, POWELL LATER SAID IN CORRECTING HIMSELF, DECISION, SUCH AS IT WAS, OCCURRED LAST FEBRUARY. IT AMOUNTED TO DECISION NOT TO DO SOMETHING -- NOT TO REMOVE FUNDS IN BUDGET FOR CONTINUATION OF DEPLOYMENT PROCESS....

"POWELL CONCEDED THAT MARK 12A WOULD GIVE U.S. 'TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE' OVER SOVIET UNION IN STRATEGIC WEAPONS, BUT HE DENIED THAT ITS DEPLOYMENT WOULD AMOUNT TO UNILATERAL ESCALATION OF ARMS RACE. ABSENT MUTUAL RESTRAINT BY BOTH SIDES, HE SAID, IF ONE OR OTHER IS TO ENJOY TEMPORARY ADVANTAGE, BETTER IT BE U.S. THAN SOVIET UNION."

3. NEW YORK TIMES REPORTED FROM PARIS THAT FRENCH FOREIGN OFFICE DENIED THAT FRANCE WAS WITHHOLDING DELIVERY OF CRITICAL COMPONENTS OF NUCLEAR REPROCESSING PLANT TO PAKISTAN, AS REPORTED JUNE 1 IN TIMES. TIMES SAID PRIVATELY INFORMED DIPLOMATS "MADE CLEAR THAT WHATEVER UNCLASSIFIED

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PAGE 03 STATE 126930

SUBTLETIES WERE, DELIVERIES WERE NOT GOING THROUGH."

4. PAT M. HOLT, WRITING IN CHRISTIAN SCIENCE MONITOR, SAID CARTER ADMINISTRATION'S "LONG-AWAITED STATEMENT ON AMERICAN ARMS SALES ABROAD IS ONE OF THINNEST COLLECTIONS OF GUIDELINES TO COME OUT OF WHITE HOUSE IN LONG TIME." HOLT, FORMER CHIEF OF STAFF OF SENATE FOREIGN RELATIONS COMMITTEE, SAID "WHAT PRESIDENT CARTER'S POLICY BOILS DOWN TO IS THAT HENCEFORTH BURDEN OF PROOF IS TO BE PUT ON THOSE SEEKING TO JUSTIFY SALE INSTEAD OF ON THOSE OPPOSING IT. AND SOMEHOW DOLLAR VOLUME OF SALES NEXT YEAR IS GOING TO BE LESS THAN THIS YEAR." HOLT, FREE-LANCE WRITER ON PUBLIC AFFAIRS, SAID "CONSPICUOUSLY MISSING IS ANY MENTION OF PURCHASING COUNTRY'S PRACTICES WITH RESPECT TO HUMAN RIGHTS."

5. TONY GERAGHTY WRITING IN MAY 22 LONDON TIMES SAID MAJOR ISSUE FOR NATO ALLIES "IS WHAT LIMITATION, IF ANY, TO ACCEPT ON DEVELOPING EUROPEAN CRUISE MISSILE. AT LEAST

THREE EUROPEAN POWERS, INCLUDING BRITAIN, ARE CONFIDENT
THEY CAN BUILD SUCH WEAPON, ALTHOUGH THEY WOULD NEED ACCESS
TO U.S. SATELLITE PHOTOGRAPHS OF SOVIET TERRAIN TO DEVELOP
PINPOINT ACCURACY CLAIMED FOR AMERICAN CRUISE....
NOMINALLY, SALT IS ALL ABOUT INTERCONTINENTAL WEAPONRY,
BUT AS DISTINCTION BETWEEN 'STRATEGIC' AND 'TACTICAL'
NUCLEAR WEAPONS BECOMES INCREASINGLY BLURRED BY NEW
TECHNOLOGY (CRUISE MISSILE, FOR INSTANCE, CAN TRAVEL LONG
OR SHORT DISTANCES), SO FORMAL EXCLUSION OF EUROPE FROM
SALT BECOMES HARDER TO JUSTIFY...." VANCE

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